

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /090 W

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R 271815Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9127

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 1046

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XL AF, TD

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS URGES CARIBBEAN

PEOPLE TO STAY OUT OF AFRICA

1. IN AN EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEECH DELIVERED APRIL 23, AT A LOCAL TRADE UNION CONFERENCE, PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS STATED THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE CARIBBEAN SHOULD STAY OUT OF AFRICA AND LET AFRICAN NATIONS SOLVE AFRICAN PROBLEMS BY THEMSELVES. HE SAID THAT THE PEOPLE OF AFRICA WERE CAPABLE OF HANDLING THEIR PROBLEMS WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE OR GUIDANCE FROM PRESUMPTUOUS PEOPLE IN THE CARIBBEAN. ACCORDING TO DR. WILLIAMS, THOSE PEOPLE IN THE CARIBBEAN WHO MADE A GREAT PUBLIC DISPLAY OF THEIR TIES WITH AFRICA WERE IN FACT CONSIDERED OUTSIDERS BY AFRICANS AND WERE NOT WANTED AS EITHER ADVISORS OR HELPERS. IN SUPPORT OF HIS COMMENT DR. WILLIAMS REFERRED TO A STATEMENT REPORTEDLY MADE BY THE TANZANIAN CHAIRMAN OF THE UN DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE TO

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THE EFFECT THAT OUTSIDE FORCES SHOULD NOT BE INVOLVED

IN AFRICA AND THAT SOLUTIONS TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS SHOULD COME FROM WITHIN THE CONTINENT.

2. DURING HIS SPEECH DR. WILLIAMS ALSO RENEWED HIS WARNING AGAINST ATTEMPTS BY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO "RECOLONIZE" THE CARIBBEAN. HE SAID THAT CARIBBEAN ENERGIES COULD BE BETTER USED IN COUNTERING THIS THREAT. HE WAS DISMAYED, HOWEVER, BY THE INCREASINGLY IDEOLOGICAL ORIENTATION OF OTHER CARIBBEAN NATIONS AND AT THE LACK OF COHESION WITHIN THE AREA.

3. IN A BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH AN EMBASSY OFFICER AFTER THE SPEECH, DR. WILLIAMS RESTATED HIS CONCERN ABOUT CUBA'S INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA AND HIS FEELING THAT THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT WAS CREATING TROUBLES FOR ITSELF AT HOME BY ITS INVOLVEMENT ABROAD.

4. COMMENT: THE SPEECH WAS ONE OF MANY GIVEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER IN RECENT WEEKS AS THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN HAS GOTTEN UNDER WAY, AND IT ATTRACTED RELATIVELY LITTLE PUBLIC NOTICE. IT DID PROVIDE, HOWEVER, A USEFUL INDICATION OF DR. WILLIAMS' CURRENT THINKING ABOUT CUBA AND ABOUT CARIBBEAN INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, SPEECHES, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PORTO01046
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760160-0702
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760415/aaaaamtu.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS URGES CARIBBEAN PEOPLE TO STAY OUT OF AFRICA
TAGS: PFOR, XL, AF, TD, (WILLIAMS, ERIC)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006